

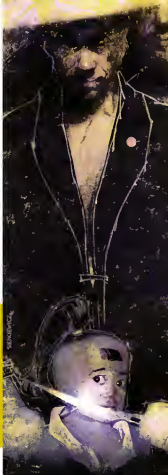
LONE WOLF AND CUB

兄弟狼

VOLUME 15

BROTHERS OF
THE GRASS

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



子連水狼

LONE WOLF AND CUB



story
KAZUO KOIKE

art
GOSEKI KOJIMA



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**BROTHERS OF
THE GRASS**

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

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狼



V O L U M E

15

A NOTE TO READERS

Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB



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the seventy-third



The Castle of Women

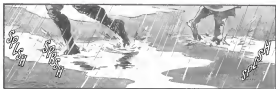








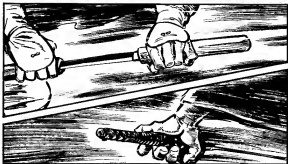


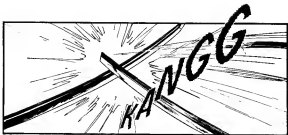
















PLEASE
ACCEPT
IT.

A TEST
OF MY
ASSASSIN
SKILL?



KIDDER...
SIXTEEN OF
OUR BEST,
ALL WEARING
THE MARK OF
SHOGUNETSU

TRAVELING THE
FIVE BYWAYS,
THE JENSEN ROUTES,
THE GOING-TO
INTERWAYS...



I SERVE
LORD
HATCHIKAWA
OF TANBA
KAWAYAMA.

I AM
ASAKI
AKIOMI



I MUST
HEAR THE
DETAILS
BEFORE I
ACCEPT.













DEAN
ITTO,
LONG
WOLF.











THE
NAME OF
KANEYAMA IS
A GOOD...



NAME
IT?



UNTIL THREE
YEARS AGO,
OUR LORD WAS
CHILDLESS

HIS DAUGHTER
CAME LATE IN LIFE,
AND HE DOTTED
GENEROUSLY
UPON HER.

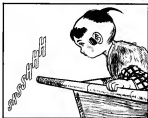


HE
REPORTED HER
TO THE SHOGUN
AS A SON, AND
IS RAISING HER
AS A BOY.

IF THE TRUTH
COMES OUT,
OUR CLAN IS
FINISHED.

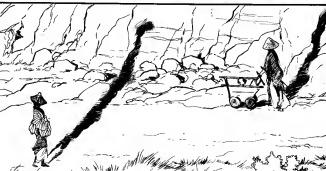
















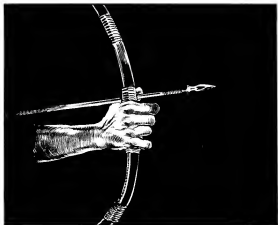


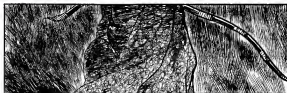






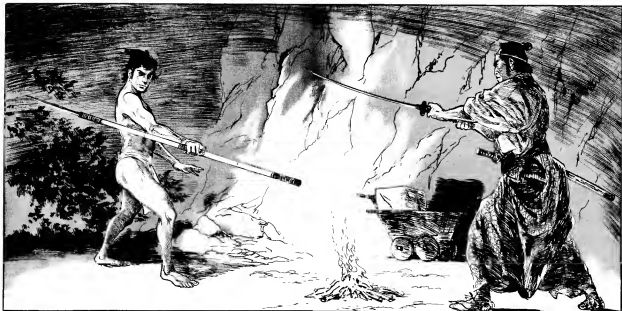




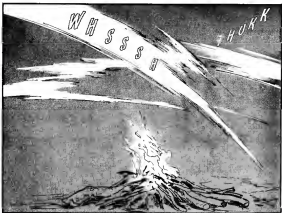


















THE CHIEF
INSPECTOR KIDO
HAD LEARNED
FROM THE JAMES
THAT OUR MAN
IS A GUY.

THE
"ASSASSIN"
...??



AH... YOU KNOW
THE 2-METRE TALL
CHUGO-MO-KAMI IS A STUDENT
OF FUYU SHIMIZU-SANSHU,
A DISCIPLE OF RETSUO,
OF THE SHU-FUYU.

HE'S EVEN
TAKEN A FUYU
WOMAN AS HIS WIFE,
DEALING HIS TIES BY
ANOTHER. HE'S
AT RETSUO'S
BACK AND CALL



THE *SHASS*
RE COMMANDS
ARE THE
SHASSA'S
SATCHEN-ANLIZ...

THEY SETTLE
IN A HILL, SAYING
FATHER TO SON,
SON TO GRANDSON...

FORGETTING
OUT SECRETS,
IMPROVISING THE
O-RETSUNE...



THEY PUT
DOWN ROOTS,
SPROUT AND GROW
THIS, THE *SHASS*.



AND IT'S THE
SHASSA-MAN
WHO ASK THE
SATCHEN-ANLIZ.



THE
SHASSA-MAN
AND THE
SHASSA'S
INSPECTOR
ARE GONE



PRINCE MATSUMORI
LIVES IN EDO.
BUT THE *GRAND*
IN OUR *ARMY* STILL
FOUND OUR SECRET,
AND TOLD THE
SHOGUN.



WE MOVED
HEAVEN AND EARTH
TO FIND AND KILL
THEM ALL... BUT
TOO LATE...



YET THERE IS
STILL NO PROOF THE
PRINCE IS REALLY A
REBEL. AND NOT EVEN
THE *SHOGUN* CAN
MOVE WITHOUT HARD
EVIDENCE.



SO HE CAME UP
WITH A SCHEME
WITH HIMSELF AS
GO-BETWEEN...

...HE'S
PROPOSED A
MARRIAGE BETWEEN
PRINCE MATSUMURA
AND THE SWORDSMAN'S
ELEVENTH
PRINCESS!



TEL.. THE
SWORDSMAN CAN'T...
BE REFUSED.
WE AGREEED,
BUT ONLY WITH...
A DESPERATE
PLAN...

THE PRINCE
IS ONLY THREE.
IF THEY HURRY, AND
A PRINCESS OF THE
SWORDSMAN'S CLAN
COMES TO OUR
CASTLE...

...IT WILL BE
TEN YEARS
AT LEAST...
BEFORE IT'S...
CONSUMMATED

WE...WE THINK
ONLY...OF THE CLAN
IF THE PRINCE SHOULD DIE
FORGIVE...THE PRINCESS
CAN BE RE-MARRIED,
TO AN ADOPTED HEIR.



UNWORTHY...YES...
BUT FOR THE
SHOGUN'S DAUGHTER,
SUCH THINGS CAN
BE ARRANGED.



ONLY MORE
CHIKUBO-NO-HARI
KNOWS...KILL HIM...
AND WE ESCAPE
THE CLAWS OF
THE TIGER!



I HATE YOU!
YOU HATE
THE FARMER...
ASSASSINATE
HIM!



YOU'LL
KILL
MATSUOKA!

W-WEDD...
AFTER...
MARRIAGE WITH
SHOGUN'S
FAMILY IS...
FINE...

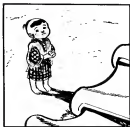
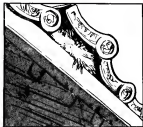


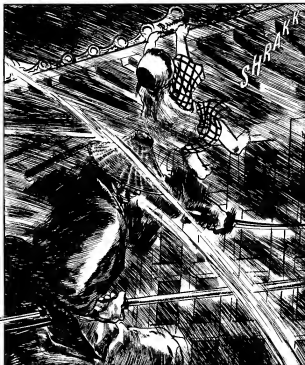
AND THIS...
UNFAITHFUL...
WE SHALL BE...
BRANDED AS
TRAITORS...
SO BE IT.





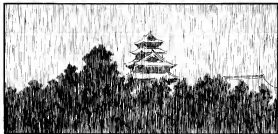


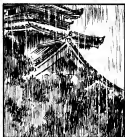
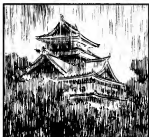
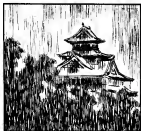


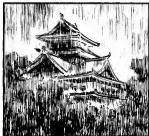
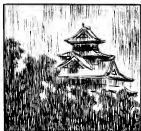




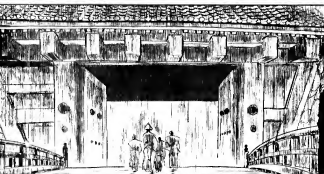




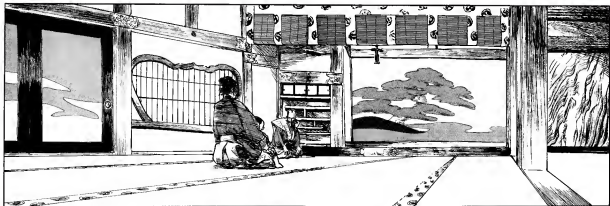
























AND TO
FOLLOW MY
ASSASSIN'S ROAD!
LONG WOLF AND GUN!
AND FEAR WITH
THE LIVES OF
WARRIORS!



THE ASSASSIN
OVERCOMES ALL
OBSTACLES
WHAT HE ACCEPTS,
HE DOES!
THAT IS MY
CONVICTION.

SEVER MY ARMS,
HACK OFF MY LEGS,
CRUSH THOSE BONES!
THOUGH I BE REDUCED
TO DUST, I WILL
KILL MY ENEMY!



























SHALL I
SHOUT IT OUT,
HERE AND
NOW??

SILENCE!

THERE'S
NOTHING TO
THAT LETTER!
JUST WORDS!



THEN
I'LL
SPEAK!

THE
SECRET OF
THE LETTER
IS—

NO,
STOP!



SPARE
KANEYAMA HAN.
SPARE THEM, AND
I'LL WAIT ONE MONTH
BEFORE REVEALING
THE SECRET.



IF YOU
WANT TO KILL
US TO GET
IT BACK...

...THEN DO
MORE FREQUENTLY
FACE US IN ONE
MONTH IN OPEN
BATTLE!

WELL!





the seventy-fourth

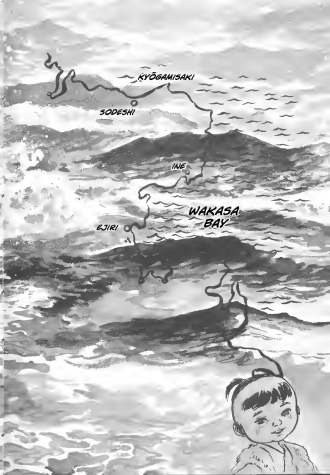
The Women of Sodeshi







CAPE KYŌGAMISAKI, ON THE NORTH COAST OF TAKAO, THE BACK CURRENT WASHES OUT OF WAKASA BAY CRASHES AGAINST IT FROM THE EAST, THE POWERFUL OCEAN SURGE FROM THE ONI ISLANDS THUNDERS UPON IT FROM THE NORTHWEST. TREACHEROUS WATERS, AS FAMOUS AS ANY ON THE JAPAN SEA COAST...



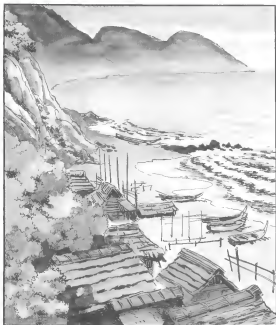
KYŌGAMISAKI

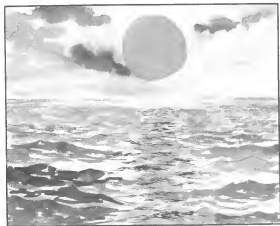
SODESHI

INE

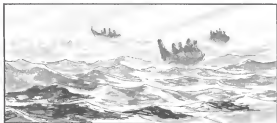
WAKASA BAY

EJIRI









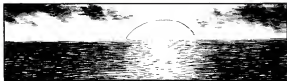
























DEE? A DIP,
O-SAMURAI?

I
DON'T
DRINK.



THERE'S
A
SHHH...

OUR FEN
FOLK DONE
GONE TO WORK
IN OTHER LANDS.
LONELY NIGHTS,
THEY DO...

WE SIT
T'GETHER
EVERY NIGHT,
DRINKIN',
SMOKIN', EASIN'
THE PAIN.



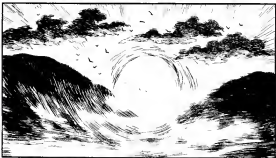
AIN'T NAUGHT T' CATCH IN
SODOSH'S SEA, NUT LUD OFF'A
FISHIN'. SO WE SODOSH WOMEN LEARN
T' DIVE AFORE WE KIN WALK. WE SO
HARVEST THE SHIMMER WHEN FOLK
AIN'T WATCHIN'. THEY CALLS US THE
ROBBER NIGHTS OF TANGO.

LIVE! LONELY
AS DEATH,
THINKIN' OF OUR
MEN AND WIF, ONES
WE'LL NEVER
SEE AGIN.







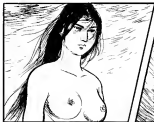


























♪ THE GREAT WATERS
OF GORGON
WILL GET BOATS
AFLOAT ON THE SEA ♪



♪ AFLOAT
THE
SEA ♪



♪ OUT ON
THE SWELL
TAKE THEIR
BOATS AROUND
THE CAPE... ♪

♪ TO UNKNOWN
COUNTRIES FAR
AWAY BRING
THEIR BOATS... ♪

♪ AGAINST
THE SHORE
THE VILLAGE
FOLK NEVER
KNOW... ♪









HIDE
THEIR TEARS
BENEATH
THE SEA...



STOP IT!
STOP!

SUCH A
MOURNFUL
SONG...

CAN THERE
BE ANOTHER
SONG ANYWHERE
THAT HIDES
SUCH
SADNESS?



ANSWER ME!
WHERE DID
YOU LEARN
IT?!



SIX
MONTHS
AGO...



IN STROLL
ON THE
MORNING
BYWAY



















UNITE-
THEM...

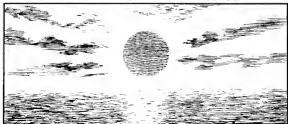
I AM AN
AGASSIN.



YOU'LL
UNITE
ME OLD UNITE
YOUR OWN
SYMPHY



VERY
WELL-
THEM



♪ THE
OCEAN
WOMEN OF
GRASSA... ♪

♪ THE OCEAN
WOMEN OF
GRASSA... ♪



LAUNCH
THEIR BOATS
UPON THE SEA,
YOH!



OUT ON
THE SWELL...
AROUND THE
CAPE, YOH!

TO
UNKNOWN
COUNTRIES
FAR AWAY!
BRING THEIR
BOATS AGAINST
THE SHORE,
YOH!



THE
VILLAGE
FOLK NEVER
KNOW...

HARVESTING
SEASONS,
NIGHT BY DAY,
YOH!



HOME ON
THE FOAM
THE WOMEN
GO, YOH!



THE ROBBER
BOATS OF
TANGO THAT'S
WHAT THE
FAR FOLK
SAY...



WAAAAHWA
YOH!







THE
OCEAN WOMEN
BRING THE BOY
FROM OUR
HOMELAND...

...AND ONE
BECOMES OUR
REAL WIFE.



TO BEAR
THE NEXT
BOY CHILD.



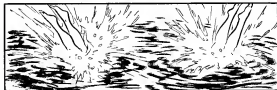
ON SOME
SECRET BEACH,
FOR ONE
NIGHT ONLY...



IF NO CHILD
IS CONCEIVED,
SHE COMES
BACK AGAIN A
YEAR LATER...

AND
ONCE SHE'S
WITH CHILD...
YOU NEVER MEET
AGAIN, APART,
TO THE DAY
YOU DIE







IS ANYONE...
ANYTIME
CHANGING?



TO SEE
HIS WIFE,
ONE FINAL
TIME...

...THAT WAS
HIS LAST
DESIRE.



WADA...!

YOUR
NAME?



O-SHO...



WOULD
YOU
SLAY HIS
KILLER?



YES!

WITH
ALL MY
HEART!!





HE ASKED
ME TO STOP
THE FIGHT.

"STOP"...
FROM
HE ASKED
ME TO KILL
YOU.



A HUSBAND'S
LAST WISH...
TO SAVE HIS
WIFE FROM
SORROW.



AWH...
MY LOVE...

AT
YOUR
SIDE...

~~~~~





the seventy-fifth

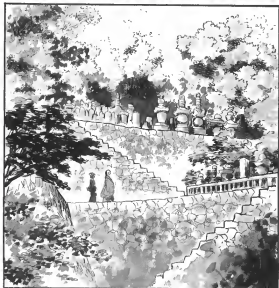


# Brothers of the Grass

















OH  
WALDO-  
SAMAN!

"WALDO, WALDO"...!  
DON'T BE SO COLD,  
O-THUKU-DODO—CALL  
ME ANONYMOUSLY!  
YOU KNOW HOW  
I LONG FOR  
YOU!



I IMPLORE  
YOU BE MY  
STRENGTH AND  
SOLACE!

THINK OF  
YOURSELF  
THREE YEARS  
ALONE SINCE  
YOUR HUSBAND  
PASSED.

B-BUT...

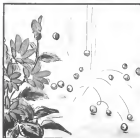
THERE'S NO  
SAMAN, NOT  
TO ANYONE, IF  
YOU COME TO  
MY SIDE.



W-WALDO-  
SAMAN...!

IT'S SO HARD  
TO BE A WIDOW...  
SO LONELY! IF  
ONLY YOU'D AGREE,  
WE'D BE TOGETHER  
TOMORROW...

AM! AM! /  
W-WALDO-  
SAMAN!





























STUFFING  
YOURSELF, SLEEPING  
LONG, ROLLING  
WITH WOMEN... DAYS  
OF SLOTH AND  
INDIFFERENCE!

FOR TWENTY  
YEARS AND  
MORE, YOU'VE  
CONSIDERATELY  
FORGOTTEN  
YOUR DUTY!  
THAT BODY  
IS PROOF  
ENOUGH!



IT...IT'S  
NOTHING OF  
THE AOWAY!

I JUST PUT  
ON AWOAYT  
SABU...!



AND  
BEHOLD,  
FURUCHIYAMA  
KAYS AT  
PEACE  
NOW...

BUT IF  
THERE AMST  
A CRIBBY! WHAT  
GOOD ARE  
YOU?



RUH, AND YOUR  
BIBBITY FAH! TAKE  
UP A SWORD, AND YOU  
CAN'T LIFT IT! NOW  
CAN YOU DERIVE  
AS A AWAYAY!

THIS HAS MADE  
YOU A PRISONER  
OF THE PLEASURES  
OF THE PLEASH! YOU'VE  
FORGOTTEN THE WAY  
OF THE SHAKO!  
GOWA! THE FINE  
ABSTINENCE!



THE SHOGUN  
HIDES A SHAMSHIR IN  
HIS HEART!! YOU CALL  
YOURSELF SHAMSHIR  
A PIGGY ANIMAL!!

SHOT TO  
CONTRACT!!  
YOU, SIR,  
BUT...



...I UNDERSTAND THAT THE  
DUTY OF THE SHAMSHIR IS TO FIT  
INTO THE COMMUNITY WHERE  
HE LIVES AND AROUSE NO  
SUSPICION, FROM OBEDIENCE  
TO OBLIVION!! NOT  
FIGHTING... WITH SHAMSHIRS  
AND ALL!!



AUD I'VE DONE IT!  
EVERYONE TRUSTS  
ME, EVEN OUR LORD  
FAVORS ME!



THE SECRETS OF THE  
ARMY FALL INTO MY LAP  
WITHOUT EVEN ASKING MY  
ARMY... DO WHICH WORKS  
BETTER?? MY WAY... OR  
CRAWLING UP CASTLE  
WALLS??



A SHAMSHIR  
DOESN'T HAVE  
ANYMORE!! I'M  
TALKING ABOUT  
WHAT YOU DO  
WITH THOSE  
SECRETS!!

HOW WILL  
YOU BRING THEM  
TO THE PIGGY  
WHEN YOU CAN'T  
EVEN CLIMB  
OR SWIM?



ENOUGH  
NOT  
DRESSED













RATHER THAN  
CARINGING SOME  
ANNOYANCE, DON'T  
YOU THINK I CAN  
SERVE THE PARKER  
BETTER AS  
DEAD...?



HE'S PROMISED  
TO DIE ONCE YOU  
CATCH HIM. SO WHY  
WASTE ME AND  
MY POSITION?

WE ASK  
BECAUSE ONLY  
YOU CAN  
FIND HIM.



BUT IF I JUST UP  
AND DISAPPEAR FOR A  
MONTH, THE ARMY AND THE  
LORD HIMSELF WILL  
BE SUSPICIOUS...

NOBODY...  
YOU SEEM QUITE  
ATTACHED TO  
YOUR LIFE  
HERE.

YOUR  
LEISURELY  
EXISTENCE OF  
WINE, FOOD,  
WOMEN, AND  
POWER



TH-THAT'S  
NOT WHAT  
I--

BUT YOU  
CAN ONLY  
ENJOY IT  
WHILE  
YOU'RE  
ALIVE!



DON'T  
TELL ME YOU  
KNOW  
REDAKED-  
SHAW'S  
CHANGES...?



U-HO?  
JAWHAW?

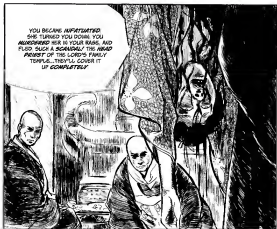


AND...DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT  
LEAVING.





YOU BECAME INFATIGATED  
SHE TURNED YOU DOWN. YOU  
ABANDONED HER IN YOUR RAGE, AND  
FLOOD SUCH A SCANDAL? THE HEAD  
PRIEST OF THE LORD'S FAMILY  
TEMPLE... THEY'LL COVER IT  
UP COMPLETELY.



WHY WOULD YOU  
DO THAT?

JUST  
TO CATCH A  
RESPONDENT?



WE ASKED  
BETSUSHOKU.

NO OTHER ANALYST  
OF THE HIRYO CAN  
MATCH HIS COMMAND OF  
THE FIVE ANGELS. HE'S  
NEEDED, NOW.











YOU DID  
THIS TO ME,  
BROTHER! YOU  
KNOW?



FOR  
GETTING  
YOU'RE  
GROSS...

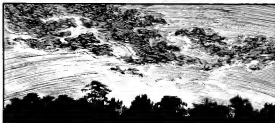
FOOLING  
AROUND WITH  
WOMEN...

ARE YOU  
GROSS?

WHERE IN THE  
SIXTY STATES OF  
JAPAN HAVE YOU GONE  
TO HIDE FROM THE  
KARU?

YOU  
STUPID  
FOOL!



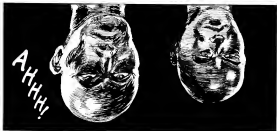






























AM...  
MAG!

NO  
FEAR!



LOOK  
STRAIGHT  
AT THE  
FLAMES!



DON'T  
BLINK!



YOU FOOL!  
WHAT DID  
CLOSED HIS  
EYES?



WHATEVER YOU SEE,  
NO SURPRISE! NO  
EXPRESSION! WE'RE  
DOING THIS UNTIL YOUR  
FACE IS AS STILL  
AS A NEW MASK!



THAT'S A  
SHAMEFUL  
A SHAMEFUL  
WHO WIELDS  
THE FIVE  
WHEELS!



A MAN HEARS  
HIS HEART ON  
HIS FACE! IN HIS  
EXPRESSIONS!  
EXPRESSIONS!  
AND TIGHT!



A SHAMEFUL  
NEVER SHOWS  
HIS HEART!

NOT JOY!  
NOT ANGER!  
SORROW,  
PLEASURE,  
FEAR!  
NOTHING!



WHEN YOU'RE DONE  
WITH YOUR FIRMWARE,  
YOU'LL BE A MASTER OF  
THE FIVE WHEELS OF  
THE FIVE WHEELS! THE  
WHEELS OF JOY AND  
ANGER, SORROW AND  
FEAR! IN THE PALM  
OF YOUR HAND!

UNDERSTAND,  
GETTINGHOLD! YOU  
CAN BE A MASTER! YOU  
HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!  
YOU'RE DIFFERENT  
FROM YOUR  
HOPELESS BROS OF  
A BROTHER.



SO  
ENDURE!

IN PERFECT  
PRACTICE!





DAMN!  
THAT GUT-  
SUBVORU!

WHERE'D  
HE  
HIDE HIM?

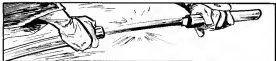
ANCH-  
BYORU! GO  
FIND YOUR  
BROTHER!

























*the seventy-sixth*

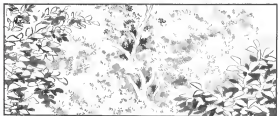
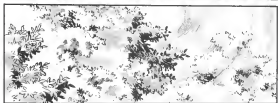


# Five Wheels of the Yagyū

















I AM  
ALREADY  
DOOMED  
TO ROT IN  
HELL.

BUT FIRST  
I MUST BURY A  
CERTAIN MAN, THOUGH I  
NEED BORROW BLOODWINE'S  
STRENGTH TO KILL HIM. I  
MUST TAKE BACK WHAT  
HE HAS TAKEN.



GRRR



IF I DON'T,  
TOO MANY OF  
MY FRIENDS  
WILL DIE.



THIS ...  
FORGIVE ME,  
HAILO.



WHEN I  
STEAL YOUR  
LIFE, I STEAL  
THE POWER OF  
BUDDHA.

AH, THE SORROW  
I FEEL GRIEF, BUT  
I SHED NO TEARS.  
I AM A MAN WHO  
CANNOT CRY.



I WAS RAISED FROM  
CHILDHOOD TO SHOW  
NEITHER JOY NOR ANGER,  
SORROW NOR PLEASURE,  
SUCH WAS MY  
DISCIPLINE...

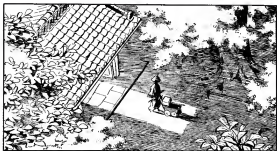


...CONDEMNED TO  
ALWAYS BE ACTING  
EVEN CONSUMED  
WITH GRIEF, I WEAR  
THE FACE OF A MAN  
UNMOVED.

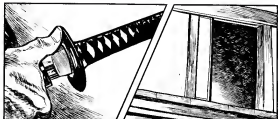
AND NOW  
MY REAL FACE...  
UNARMED. I SHOW  
IT TO YOU AND BEG  
FORGIVENESS. I  
GRIEVE FOR YOU.



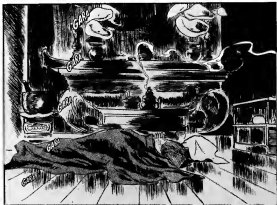


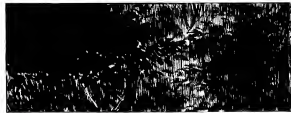
























WHEREVER  
YOU, FATHER AND  
SON, SEEK SHELTER,  
BEG FOR FOOD,  
RECEIVE ANY AND  
ALL THINGS...

FOR NOTHING  
MORE THAN REACHING  
OUT TO YOU, THOSE  
WHO HELP YOU  
SHALL DIE.

WHO ARE  
YOU?

YAKUJIN!

WHEREVER  
YOU GO, FATHER  
AND SON... YOU SHALL  
SUMMON BLOOD AND  
SLAUGHTER. THE WINDS  
OF CARNAGE SHALL  
BLOW.

AH, THE  
SORROW

TRULY,  
YOU ARE  
THE GODS  
OF DEATH.

SHOW  
YOURSELF!!!





















THE FIVE  
WHEELS OF THE  
MIRYD BRASS. JOY,  
ANGER, SORROW,  
PLEASURE...  
FEAR.

THE FIVE  
FEELINGS,  
HUMAN  
EMOTIONS...  
DECEID.



I TAKE THEM  
FROM YOU, FATHER  
AND SON. I TAKE JOY  
AND SORROW, ANGER  
AND PLEASURE. I  
LEAVE ONLY FEAR.

FROM ALL WHO  
OFFER YOU JOY AND  
ANGER, SORROW AND  
PLEASURE, I TAKE ALSO  
I TAKE LIFE. JOSSHI-  
MO-JIYEN... THE  
FIVE WHEELS.



YOU, FATHER  
AND SON... YOU SHALL  
WANT FOR SHELTER,  
WANT FOR FOOD. NOT  
EVEN WATER WILL  
COME TO YOU.

IN TIME, YOU  
WILL BE PURSUED  
BY ALL... CURSED BY  
ALL. THERE SHALL  
BE NO PLACE  
FOR YOU.





*DOODERA DUDERA! DOODERA  
DUDERA! STRETCH IT, SQUEEZE  
IT, MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH!  
JAZZMAME CANDY! DEM!*



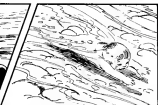
ADD IT  
TO WATER,  
DRINK IT DOWN!  
DOODERA  
DEAR!



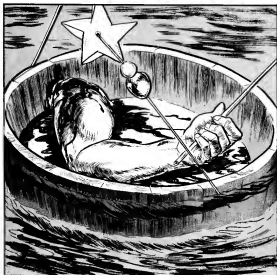






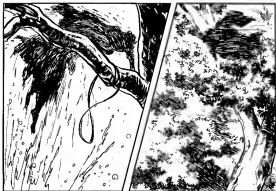












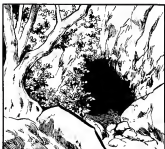


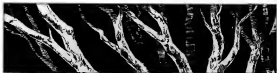






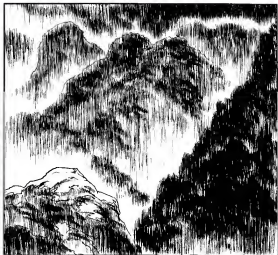










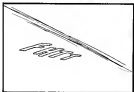


























*the seventy-seventh*

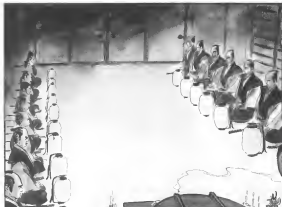


# **Incense for the Living**



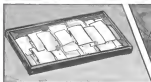




































.....

"YOU KNOW  
OF THE *YAMATO*—  
ONE OF THE  
SHOGUN'S SPECIAL  
DETACHMENTS?"



"THESE  
*YAMATO*—AND  
WAS A PECULIAR  
CUSTOM—WAS  
INCREASE



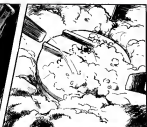




"EVEN  
AMONG THE  
YANG-SANG THEY'RE  
HAND-PICKED  
WARRIORS"

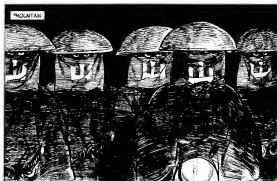


"MEN  
OF SOUND  
BODY". SUPERB  
"SWORDWORK."













"LIVING  
BUDDHAS" IS THEIR  
ADDITIONAL  
CEREMONY.



"THIS SOME  
CALL THEM  
SHIBITO-  
MITSUNE...  
SHIBIT  
WARRIORS



"WARRIORS  
ARRIVE TO SEE  
THEIR FAMILY  
AGAIN.



"FATED TO  
END HIS LIFE IN  
THE MOUNTAINS OF  
JAPAN, THAT'S  
YOUR FINE-  
ANYTHING



"A DEADLY,  
TERRORIFYING  
BAND."

"ALREADY  
DEAD, THEY  
HAVE NO REGRET,  
NO SORROW,  
NO DESIRE."

"SKILLED  
FIGHTERS  
ALL."

"LAST RITES  
COMPLETE. THEY'RE  
READY FOR DEATH  
ON A NAMELESS  
MOUNTAINSIDE."

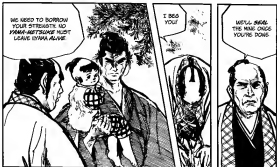
"THEY KNOW  
NO FEAR: A BAND  
OF SPIRITS OF  
THE DEAD."



"AND THEY'VE  
SET THEIR EYES  
ON YIYAMA  
NOMU."



"THE YIYAMA-MITSUNE  
STRIKE DEEP INTO THE  
MOUNTAINS, SEARCHING  
OUT HIDDEN GOLD AND  
SILVER MINES."



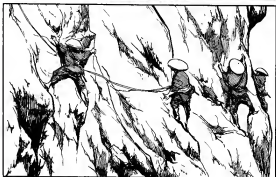
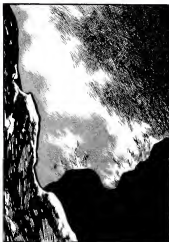






























YAMA-  
MITSUNE  
ARE LIKE THE  
BIRDS!

SET UP GUN  
STATIONS, MAKE WALLS  
OF THE CLIFFS AND CRAGS,  
AND SURROUND THEM! THE  
WHOLE MOUNTAIN IS  
OPEN TO US.



NO ROAD  
CLOSED!

THE SHOGUN  
HIMSELF MADE US  
YAMA-MITSUNE—  
FORGET IT NOT!

YET, YET  
IT'S A PERFECT  
CHANCE FOR  
VENGEANCE...

WE'RE BIRDS!  
THE FINE DESIRED,  
THE FINE FEELINGS,  
FORGOTTEN! OUR  
INCENSE BURNED,  
WE'RE FREE OF  
THE WORLD!



THE  
HATREDS  
OF MEN MEAN  
NOTHING  
NOW.



...



NOM-  
FORGET  
SHAM  
ITTO.



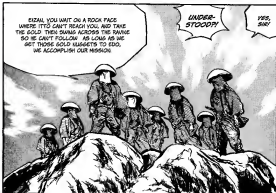
IF HE CATCHES US,  
WE DEAL WITH HIM. BUT  
HOW CAN A HERO MONTAG  
CLIMB THESE PEAKS?

HE HAS ONLY  
CHANCE ONLY...  
WAIT FOR US  
IN THE MOUNT



THE JAPANESE SAY  
THE FIRE IS BELOW  
THE MOUNTAIN, OPPOSITE  
SHIMIZAMA VALLEY  
ON THE FLANKS OF  
MOUNT IYAMA.

WHA... IN CASE  
ITTO IS HERE  
THERE, WE'LL  
DIVIDE OUR  
FORCES.



EIZAM, YOU WAIT ON A ROCK FACE  
WHERE ITTO CAN'T REACH YOU, AND TAKE  
THE GOLD. THEN DASH ACROSS THE RAVINE  
SO HE CAN'T FOLLOW. AS LONG AS WE  
GET THOSE GOLD MOUNTAINS TO EDO,  
WE ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION.

UNDER-  
STOOD?

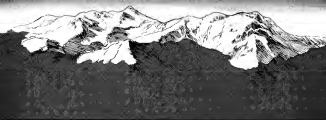
YES,  
SIR!



OUR PERIMETER  
IS SEALED. THE  
YAMA-NETSUME  
CAN'T LIFT A  
FINGER.

AND  
WITH THOSE  
SHEER CLIFFS  
BEHIND US, NO  
GANG GETS  
THROUGH.







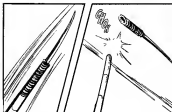


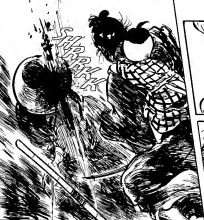




LONG WOLF  
AND GURU  
YOU ARE  
WAITING!





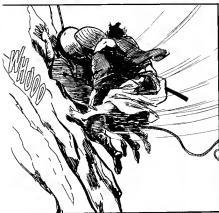






RYAAAH H H!







# GLOSSARY

**bushi**

A samurai. A member of the warrior class.

**bushidō**

The way of the warrior. Also shortened to *shidō*.

**dōtanuki**

A battle sword. Literally, "sword that cuts through torsos."

**Edo**

The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shōgunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo.

**gozumezu**

The horse-and-ox headed demons of *meifumadō*.

**han**

A feudal domain.

**honorifics**

Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Love Wolf and Cub*:

*chan* – for children, young women, and close friends

*dono* – archaic; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures

*san* – the most common, used among equals or near-equals

*sama* – used for superiors

*sensei* – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians

**juzu**

A Buddhist rosary

**kagemusha**

A double.

**Kannon**

Buddhist goddess of mercy.

**karo**

Elder, senior advisor to the *daimyo* of a *han*.

**kōgi kaishakunin**

The shōgun's own second, who performed executions ordered by the shōgun.

**meifumadō**

The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

**ningi**

The spycraft and combat arts of the *ninja*. Also called *ninjutsu*.

**Noh**

Traditional Japanese dance drama in which the performers wear carved masks.

**nukemō**

A *ninja* who has broken the code of the *shinobi* and fled the *ninja* world.

**ō-metsuke**

Chief inspector. The supreme law-enforcement officer of the shōgunate.

**ri**

Old unit of measurement. Approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).

**rōnin**

A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of *han*, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons. Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa

shōgunate, many impoverished *rōnin* became "hired guns" for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words.

**ryō**

A gold piece, worth 60 *monme*.

**shinobi**

A generic term for *ninja*, meaning "one who moves in secrecy." *Ninja* had their heyday in the time of warring states before the rise of the Tokugawa clan. Originally mercenaries serving different warlords, by the Edo period they were in the service of the central government. The most famous *shinobi* were the *ninja* of Iga and Kaga, north of Kyoto. The Kurokuwa that appear in *Low Wolf and Cub* were officially the laborers and manual workers in Edo Castle. Whether they truly served as a secret spy corps is lost in history.

**wajo**

A term of respect for a high priest or the head of a temple.

**yama-metsuke**

Mountain inspectors. Special unit used to infiltrate and spy in mountain regions.

# KAZUO KOIKE

Though widely respected as a powerful writer of graphic fiction, Kazuo Koike has spent a lifetime reaching beyond the bounds of the comics medium. Aside from co-creating and writing the successful *Lone Wolf and Cub* and *Crying Freeman* manga, Koike has hosted television programs; founded a golf magazine; produced movies; written popular fiction, poetry, and screenplays, and mentored some of Japan's best manga talent.

*Lone Wolf and Cub* was first serialized in Japan in 1970 (under the title *Kozure Ōkami*) in *Manga Action* magazine and continued its hugely popular run for many years, being collected as the stories were published, and republished worldwide. Koike collected numerous awards for his work on the series throughout the next decade. Starting in 1972, Koike adapted the popular manga into a series of six films, the *Baby Cart Assassin* saga, garnering widespread commercial success and critical acclaim for his screenwriting.

This wasn't Koike's only foray into film and video. In 1996, *Crying Freeman*, the manga Koike created with artist Ryoichi Ikegami, was

produced in Hollywood and released to commercial success in Europe and is currently awaiting release in America.

And to give something back to the medium that gave him so much, Koike started the *Gekiga Seisaku*, a college course aimed at helping talented writers and artists — such as *Ranma 1/2* creator Rumiko Takahashi — break into the comics field.

The driving focus of Koike's narrative is character development, and his commitment to character is clear: "Comics are carried by characters. If a character is well created, the comic becomes a hit." Kazuo Koike's continued success in comics and literature has proven this philosophy true.



# GOSEKI KOJIMA

Goseki Kojima was born on November 3, 1928, the very same day as the godfather of Japanese comics, Osamu Tezuka. While just out of junior high school, the self-taught Kojima began painting advertising posters for movie theaters to pay his bills.

In 1950, Kojima moved to Tokyo, where the postwar devastation had given rise to special manga forms for audiences too poor to buy the new manga magazines. Kojima created art for *kami-shibal*, or "paper-play" narrators, who would use manga story sheets to present narrated street plays. Kojima moved on to creating works for the *kash-hon* market, bookstores that rented out books, magazines, and manga to mostly low-income readers. He soon became highly popular among *kash-hon* readers.

In 1967, Kojima broke into the magazine market with his series *Dogisaki*. As the manga magazine market grew and diversified, he turned out a steady stream of popular series.

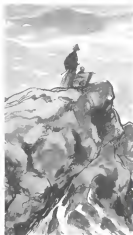
In 1970, in collaboration with Kazuo Koike, Kojima began the work that would seal his reputation, *Koror*

*Okawa* (*Love Wolf and Cub*). Before long the story had become a gigantic hit, eventually spinning off a television series, six motion pictures, and even theme song records. Koike and Kojima were soon dubbed the "golden duo" and produced success after success on their way to the pinnacle of the manga world.

When *Manga Japan* magazine was launched in 1994, Kojima was asked to serve as consultant, and he helped train the next generation of manga artists.

In his final years, Kojima turned to creating original graphic novels based on the movies of his favorite director, Akira Kurosawa. Kojima passed away on January 5, 2000 at the age of 71.





The legendary saga of *Lone Wolf and Cub* passes the halfway mark with this stunning volume. Watch as Ogami Itto, the Lone Wolf, comes face-to-face with his arch-enemy, Yagyu Retsudo in a tale of dark ambition and political intrigue. Witness the tragic tale of the “Women of Sodeshi.” Stalk alongside a deep-cover ninja as he chases his brother who has fled his station, while a group of shadow warriors prepare for a suicide mission to find a secret gold mine — guarded by the Lone Wolf! America’s best-selling graphic novel series continues to gain legions of fans.

*“Truly classic manga storytelling ... do not miss it.”*

*— Maggie Thompson*

*Comics Buyer's Guide*

Published for the first time in America in the Japanese format.

■ HARVEY AWARD WINNER

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子連れ狼

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